

We Claim

1. A packet processing method,

wherein a processing to be performed for the data of a packet in a packet flow is selected for each input packet flow.

2. The packet processing method according to claim 1;

wherein said processing is selected according to an input line to which said packet flow is inputted.

3. The packet processing method according to claim 1;

wherein said processing is selected according to an identifier included in said packet data.

4. The packet processing method according to claim 1;

wherein said processing is selected by referring to a table where an input line to which said packet flow is inputted and a processing to be selected are corresponded to each other.

5. The packet processing method according to claim 1;

wherein said processing is selected by referring to a table where an identifier included in said packet data and a processing to be selected are corresponded to each other.

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6. The packet processing method according to claim 1;
wherein a processing to be performed for packet data
is at least one of encapsulation, decapsulation,
encryption, decryption, compression, and expansion.

7. A packet processing apparatus, comprising:
a processor selector for extracting identification
information that denotes a characteristic of a data flow
composed of an input packet from said packet;
a processing selecting table for holding a pair of
data items that are identification information and a
processing to be performed for said packet in advance;
a table searcher for searching information in said
processing selecting table according to a search key, which
is identification information extracted by said processor
selector;
a packet processor for processing said packet
according to a result of searching in said table; and
a port selector for sending said processed packet.

8. The packet processing apparatus according to claim
7;

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wherein identification information that denotes a characteristic of a data flow composed of an input packet is extracted from the header information of said packet.

9. The packet processing apparatus according to claim 8;

wherein said identification information that denotes a characteristic of said data flow is at least one of a source address and a destination address.

10. The packet processing apparatus according to claim 8;

wherein said packet processor is one of a plurality of types of packet processors, each being independent for a processing type to be performed for packets.

11. A packet processing apparatus, comprising:
a processor selector for deciding the source of an input packet;

a processing selecting table for holding a pair of data items that are identification information and a processing to be performed for said packet in advance;

a table searcher for searching information in said processing selecting table according to a search key, which

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is a source of said packet decided by said processor selector;

a packet processor for processing said packet according to a result of searching in said table; and
a port selector for sending said processed packet.

12. The packet processing apparatus according to claim 11;

wherein an input line to which said packet is inputted is decided as the source of said packet.

13. The packet processing apparatus according to claim 11;

wherein the source of said inputted packet is decided according to the header information of said packet.

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